

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: FOOD SUPPLIES IN VILNIUS AND ANIKSHCHYAY

1. DURING CONSULAR TRIP TO VILNIUS AND THE VILLAGE OF ANIKSHCHYAY, LITHUANIA CONSULAR OFFICER AND WIFE NOTED AVAILABILITY AND PRICES OF FOOD IN BOTH LOCATIONS. FOOD SUPPLIES IN VILNIUS APPEARED ADEQUATE BOTH IN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON HOURS. AT THE FOOD OUTLETS ON PROSPECT LENINA NEAR THE HOTEL VILNIUS, AMPLE SELECTIONS OF PORK WERE SOLD FROM 2.00R TO 3.30R/KILO. LARGE QUANTITIES OF ASSORTED KOLBASA WERE SOLD FROM 2.99R TO 4.00R. CHICKEN IN ADEQUATE QUANTITY WAS PRICED AT 2.50R AND LIVER AT .90K. A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF CHEESES WERE SOLD AT 1.50R TO 2.90R WHILE BUTTER WENT FOR 30K. FISH IN ADEQUATE SUPPLY WAS PRICED FROM 30K TO 90K PER KILO WHILE SHRIMP WENT FOR 1.6R/KILO. LARGE QUANTITIES OF CANNED FISH WERE AVAILABLE AT 50K TO 1.00R PER CAN. SEVERAL CUTS OF BEEF WERE AVAILABLE AT PRICES FROM 1.90R TO 2.00R/KILO. SUPPLIES OF WHITE BREAD AT 13K AND BLACK BREAD AT 14K WERE ADEQUATE. A SPECIALITY BUTCHER SHOP WAS CROWDED IN THE EVENING HOURS, BUT NO LINES

FOR BREAD OR MEAT WERE OBSERVED.

2. WITH REGARD TO FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, SUPPLIES IN VILNIUS WERE ADEQUATE BUT NOT PLENTIFUL. SUPPLIES OF POTATOES AT 11K/KILO WERE ADEQUATE WHILE CARROTS WERE PLENTIFUL AT 17K. BEETS SELLING FOR 12K WERE AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE SUPPLIES WHILE POOR

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QUALITY CABBAGE PRICED AT 15K APPEARED TO BE IN EXTREMELY SHORT

SUPPLY. ALTHOUGH EMPLOYEE OF FOOD OUTLET TOLD REPORTING OFFICER THAT ONIONS COULD BE PURCHASED AT 70K/KILO, NO ONIONS WERE AVAILABLE IN THE STORE. THE ONLY FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE WAS RELATIVELY GOOD QUALITY APPLES AT 70K. SHOPPERS APPARENTLY KNEW THAT APPLES WOULD BE SOLD AT 5:00P.M. SINCE A LINE FORMED PRIOR TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE APPLES IN THE STORE. LEMONS AT 35K EACH WERE SOLD INDIVIDUALLY AT A COUNTER WHICH ALSO SERVED MILK AND SWEET ROLLS. IN ADDITIONAL TO FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, LARGE QUANTITIES OF PRESERVED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WERE AVAILABLE.

3. SUPPLIES OF MEAT AND FISH WERE NOTICEABLY SMALLER IN THE VILLAGE OF ANIKSHCHYAY, AN AREA NORMALLY CLOSED TO FOREIGNERS. PORK AT 1.90RXKILO AND BEEF AT 1.30R TO 2.00R WERE AVAILABLE IN LIMITED QUANTITIES, AND QUALITY OF ALL CUTS WAS POOR. PORK FAT WAS MORE PLENTIFUL AT 2.60R WHILE AN ADEQUATE QUANTITY AND ASSORTMENT OF KOLBASA WENT FROM 2.10R TO 3.40R. DAIRY PRODUCTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MILK, APPEARED TO BE IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY. LIMITED AMOUNTS OF MARGARINE WENT FOR 35K PER 200 GRAM PACKAGE WHILE BUTTER WAS 68K PER 500 GRAM PACKAGE. A RELATIVELY MORE PLENTIFUL ASSORTMENT OF CHEESES SOLD FOR 1.20R TO 2.40/KILO. WHITE AND BLACK BREAD WERE AVAILABLE IN ADEQUATE SUPPLY AT 14K AND 13K RESPECTIVELY. THE STORE VISITED, WHICH IS LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE, WAS ALSO WELL-STOCKED WITH PRESERVED MEATS AND FISH. THESE SUPPLIES AND PRICES WERE OBSERVED AT 12:30P.M. AND NO LINES WERE OBSERVED IN THE FOOD STORE. SINCE FRUIT AND VEGETABLES WERE SOLD AT A DIFFERENT LOCATION, REPORTING OFFICER WAS UNABLE TO SURVEY PRICE OR AVAILABILITY OF THESE ITEMS.

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